CLAIMS

1. A method of determining whether an individual is or has been infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* , said method including the step of detecting an isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* if present in a biological sample obtained from said individual, a presence of said porA nucleic acid indicating that said individual is or has been infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae.*

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said method includes the step of distinguishing said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* from a porA nucleic of another Neisseria species present in said biological sample.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said another Neisseria species is *N. meningitidis.*

4. The method of Claim 1, including the step of subjecting the biological sample to nucleic acid sequence amplification under conditions which facilitate amplification of said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* to produce an amplification product.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the amplification product corresponds to a fragment of a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* porA pseudogene.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein nucleic acid sequence amplification is performed using one or more PCR primers having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

7. The method of Claim 4, including the step of detecting said amplification product by probe hybridization.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the probe is an oligonucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7; SEQ ID NO:8; SEQ ID NO:9.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the probe is an oligonucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

10. The method of Claim 7, wherein detection of said amplification product is performed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET).

11. A method of determining whether a human individual is or has been infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* , said method including the steps of:

(i) subjecting a biological sample obtained from said human individual to nucleic acid sequence amplification using primers having respective nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2, to produce a porA *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* amplification product from a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* porA nucleic acid if present in said biological sample; and

(ii) detecting said amplification product, if present, by probe hybridization and fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) using oligonucleotides having respective nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NO:3 having a donor fluorophore and SEQ ID NO:4 having an acceptor fluorophore, whereby a presence of said porA amplification product indicates that said individual is or has been infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* .

12. An oligonucleotide which is capable of hybridizing to a porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* sufficiently to enable detection of said porA nucleic acid, but which is not capable of hybridizing to a porA nucleic acid of another Neisseria species sufficiently to enable detection of said porA nucleic acid of said another Neisseria species.

13. The oligonucleotide of Claim 12, wherein said another Neisseria species is *N. meningitidis.*

14. The oligonucleotide of Claim 13 having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7; SEQ ID NO:8; SEQ ID NO:9.

15. The oligonucleotide of Claim 14 having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

16. A kit for detecting a porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* , said kit comprising one or more oligonucleotides according to Claim 12 together with a DNA polymerase and/or one or more detection reagents.

17. The kit of Claim 16, wherein the one or more oligonucleotides have a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7; SEQ ID NO:8; SEQ ID NO:9.

18. The kit of Claim 17, wherein the one or more oligonucleotides have a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

19. The kit of Claim 16, further comprising one or more primers that facilitate amplification of an *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* porA nucleic acid.

20. The kit of Claim 19, wherein the one or more primers have a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

21. A nucleic acid array comprising one or more oligonucleotides according to Claim 12, immobilized, coupled, bound, impregnated or otherwise in communication with a substrate.

22. The nucleic acid array of Claim 21, wherein the one or more oligonucleotides have a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7; SEQ ID NO:8; SEQ ID NO:9.

23. The nucleic acid array of Claim 22, wherein the one or more oligonucleotides have a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.